

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /031 W
 -----098781 192014Z /73
R 191010Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8490
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR SF
SUBJ: PANAM TRAFFIC RIGHTS FROM CAPE TOWN TO RIO DE JANEIRO

1. LOCAL PANAM MANAGER HAS CALLED AT EMBASSY TO REPORT THAT PANAM HAD APPROACHED DEPARTMENT 8-10 WEEKS AGO TO PROPOSE THAT WE RE-NEGOTIATE CAPE TOWN BACK INTO BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT. (EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OF JULY 21 AND NOVEMBER 2, 1953 DELETED CAPE TOWN FOR US CARRIER.) HE SAID PANAM WOULD LIKE US TO RECOMMEND TO DEPARTMENT THAT PROPOSAL BE FAVORABLY CONSIDERED ON GROUNDS OF CONVENIENCE FOR EMBASSY STAFF IN CAPE TOWN.

2. SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE GRANTED VARIG TRAFFIC RIGHTS BETWEEN CAPE TOWN AND RIO. SINCE FLIGHTS COMMENCED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, PANAM CLAIMS TO HAVE TAKEN SEVERE BEATING ON CAPE TOWN BUSINESS. THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE PASSENGERS SELECTING PANAM MUST FLY FROM CAPE TOWN TO JOHANNESBURG TO JOIN PANAM FLIGHT, WHICH IN MOST CASES THEN TOUCHES DOWN IN CAPE TOWN FOR REFUELING ENROUTE TO RIO. PANAM MANAGER EXPECTS SAA WILL EVENTUALLY SEEK RIGHTS FROM BRAZIL FOR USING 747SPS ON CAPE TOWN-RIO RUN WHICH WOULD FURTHER DAMAGE
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PANAM'S BUSINESS.

3. EMBASSY WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME PROVISION OF TRAFFIC RIGHTS FOR PANAM AT CAPE TOWN. ESPECIALLY DURING PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE WHEN AMBASSADOR AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS ARE IN CAPE TOWN, NUMEROUS OFFICIAL TRIPS TO WASHINGTON, HOME LEAVE, EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL, ETC. ORIGINATE IN CAPE

TOWN. REQUIREMENT TO TRAVEL TO JOHANNESBURG TO PICK UP AN AMERICAN CARRIER ADDS ABOUT 7 HOURS TO AN ALREADY EXHAUSTING JOURNEY, NOT TO MENTION THE FRUSTRATION OF RETURNING TO CAPE TOWN SEVERAL HOURS AFTER DEPARTURE FOR REFUELING. TRAFFIC RIGHTS AT CAPE TOWN WOULD ALSO END SIGNIFICANT COMPETITIVE HANDICAP PANAM FACES. ON OTHER HAND, PANAM'S OVERALL BUSINESS ON SOUTH AFRICAN RUN IS EXTREMELY GOOD WITH SALES HAVING DOUBLED IN PAST THREE YEARS.

4. AS WE POINTED OUT TO PANAM MANAGER, EVEN ASIDE FROM QUESTION OF WHAT COMPENSATING RIGHTS SAA MIGHT SEEK, THIS MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST TIME TO BE APPROACHING SOUTH AFRICANS ON SUCH A MATTER. WE SAID WE ASSUMED DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER PANAM'S REQUEST WITHIN WIDER FRAMEWORK OF OUR RELATIONS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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